

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-4, 10-11, 13-15, 21, 24-25 and 27-28 have been amended. Claims 16-20 have been withdrawn. Accordingly, claims 1-15 and 21-28 are currently pending in the above application.

Response to Restriction Requirement

Applicants elect to prosecute the invention defined by the Examiner as Group I, including claims 1-3. This election is made with traverse. In addition, independent claims 4 and 21 have been amended to incorporate the invention described by the Examiner as Group I. As such, all of the pending claims should be examined. A divisional application filed on the same day as this amendment contains the claims defined by the Examiner as Group II, without amendment.

Conclusion

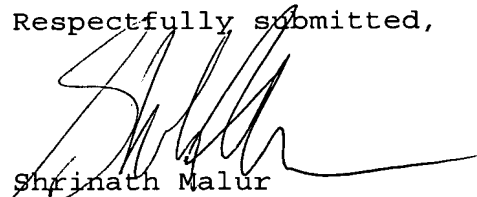
Examination is hereby requested. The Commissioner is

Serial No. 09/987,815

NIT-308

hereby authorized to charge any payment due to Deposit Account
No. 50-1417.

Respectfully submitted,



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